

Thomes Creek Restoration Implementation (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700349

A. List of Restoration Activities

This funding request will provide effective vehicle barriers to prevent continued unauthorized OHV access, and to restore areas damaged by unauthorized OHV access in the Thomes Creek Back Country Area (10,235 acres). The planning for this project was conducted through a previous OHV grant. Unauthorized motorized use has caused resource damage and has negatively impacted opportunities for solitude desired within this backcountry area. The actions to implement this project will include installation of closure devices that will prevent continued unauthorized access by motorized traffic into the Thomes Creek Backcountry Area, restoring to natural grade unauthorized OHV trails with slash, straw or mulch to disguise trails, installation of water-bars to help with proper trail drainage, posting signs at the backcountry boundary and at the junction of major roadways to notify the public of proper backcountry uses, and posting additional informational signs, including information about legal OHV riding opportunities at nearby Kingsley and Sugarfoot Glade Campgrounds.

B. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and how OHV Recreation caused the damage:

The Thomes Creek Backcountry Area is located roughly 7 air miles west of Paskenta, California, in the north section of the Grindstone Ranger District. Unauthorized OHV use within this area has caused trails to fail, resulting in unacceptable resource damage. The Thomes Creek Restoration project is not intended to sustain any OHV opportunities, although information will be provided for visitors on where legal OHV riding opportunities exist on the National Forest. There are currently no authorized system OHV trails within the area designated as Thomes Creek Backcountry. Although motorized use in the backcountry is not allowed, it continues to occur due to a lack of effective vehicle closures. It is imperative that we effectively close vehicle access to trails so they do not continue to cause resource damage. The Thomes Creek Backcountry Area was set aside for management of the undeveloped forest environment in such a way that a diversity of plant and animal life is maintained and an opportunity for the enjoyment of primitive and/or semi-primitive recreational activities is provided. Access to the backcountry area is limited to foot and horse trail.

C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles

The Thomes Creek Backcountry Area encompasses 10,235 acres and is located in T23N, R7W Sections 5,6,7,8,17,18,19, 20; T23N, R8W Sections 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15; and T24N, R8W, Sections 34, 35. Approximately 2.5 miles of unauthorized motorized trails will be restored and 14 unauthorized entry points will be closed to prevent motorized vehicles from entering the backcountry.

Trail, Length (miles), Action

TBC-1 0.11 Install closure device at junction with 24N01, install sign "Private Access Use Only"

TBC-2 0.37 Install closure device at junction with 24N01

TBC-3 0.35 Install sign at junction with 24N35 "Private Access Use Only"

TBC-4 1.4 Install closure device at junction with TBC-3, and at private property boundary

TBC-5 0.36 Install closure device at junction with TBC-3

TBC-6 1.0 Install closure device at junction with 24N07, remove 2 culverts

TBC-7 3.0 Install closure device at junction with 24N07, stabilize first 1.0 mile

TBC-8 0.89 Install closure device at backcountry boundary end of 24N107

TBC-9 0.51 Install closure device at backcountry boundary, install backcountry use sign

TBC-11 2.3 Install closure devices at junction with 23N40 and at junction with 24N20, install backcountry use signs

TBC-12 0.81 Install closure device at 8W04 trailhead junction with 23N48, install backcountry use sign

TBC-13 0.48 Restore natural surface drainage

TBC-14 0.35 Install closure device at private property boundary

TBC-15 0.06 Install closure at junction with TBC-3

7W10 5.6 Install closure on trail

D. Monitoring and Methodology

Periodic planned monitoring and routine law enforcement patrols will be performed in order to measure the effectiveness of the treatments prescribed to restore and protect the area from motorized trespass. At least 2 visits per year are planned. The Forest also anticipates active support of volunteer groups in assisting with monitoring and maintenance of trail closures and restoration projects in the Thomes Creek Backcountry Area.

E. List of Reports

F. Goals, Objectives and Methodology / Peer Reviews

G. Plan for Protection of Restored Area

The Thomes Creek Backcountry Area will be protected by periodic planned monitoring and routine law enforcement patrols. Closure devices designed to prevent unauthorized vehicle access include but are not limited to logs/brush, bollards, rail-road ties and fences. Closure devices on designated horse and foot trails will encourage continued horse and foot access to the backcountry. Stabilizing and restoration of natural surface drainage will include the installation of drainage features and using slash and/or mulch to disguise the trail. Work will not be completed within any known archaeological sites. Informational signs will also be posted. These signs will provide information related to proper backcountry uses and proper OHV uses on the National Forest, including locations of legal riding opportunities.

Additional Documentation

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1. Project-Specific Maps

Attachments:

[Thomes Creek Restoration Project Map](#)

2. Project-Specific Photos

Attachments:

[Thomes Backcountry Photos](#)

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Mendocino National Forest
Application: Thomes Creek Restoration Implementation (FINAL)

3/1/2010

Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:				Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	USFS - Mendocino National Forest				
PROJECT TITLE :	Thomes Creek Restoration Implementation (FINAL)			PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-02-10-R01
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration				
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	This funding request will provide effective vehicle barriers to prevent continued unauthorized OHV access, and to restore areas damaged by unauthorized OHV access in the Thomes Creek Back Country Area (10,235 acres). The planning for this project was conducted through a previous OHV grant. Unauthorized motorized use has caused resource damage and has negatively impacted opportunities for solitude desired within this backcountry area. The actions to implement this project will include installation of closure devices that will prevent continued unauthorized access by motorized traffic into the Thomes Creek Backcountry Area, restoring to natural grade unauthorized OHV trails with slash, straw or mulch to disguise trails, installation of water-bars to help with proper trail drainage, posting signs at the backcountry boundary and at the junction of major roadways to notify the public of proper backcountry uses, and posting additional informational signs, including information about legal OHV riding opportunities at nearby Kingsley and Sugarfoot Glade Campgrounds.				

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Archeologist	20.000	342.230	DAY	6,845.00	0.00	6,845.00
	Other-GS-7 /FPO	5.000	281.220	DAY	1,406.00	0.00	1,406.00
	Other-GS-6	10.000	231.750	DAY	2,318.00	0.00	2,318.00
	Other-CDC Hand Crew	10.000	3040.000	DAY	1,500.00	28,900.00	30,400.00
	Other-equip op WG-10	2.000	329.860	DAY	660.00	0.00	660.00
	Other-Volunteers 5 per day	1.000	800.000	DAY	0.00	800.00	800.00
	Total for Staff				12,729.00	29,700.00	42,429.00
2	Contracts						

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Signs	13.000	30.000	EA	390.00	0.00	390.00
	Other-Straw Bales	60.000	5.000	EA	300.00	0.00	300.00
	Other-Geo-Jute	3.000	60.000	EA	180.00	0.00	180.00
	Other-Straw Wattles	5.000	65.000	PKG	325.00	0.00	325.00
	Other-Barriers	20.000	65.000	EA	1,300.00	0.00	1,300.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				2,495.00	0.00	2,495.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Other-2- 4x4 pickups	550.000	0.670	MI	369.00	0.00	369.00
	Other-1 ton fuel truck	300.000	0.960	MI	288.00	0.00	288.00
	Other-D-6 Dozer Notes : D6 Dozer is Forest Service Purchased and Owned Equipment	15.000	13.520	HRS	203.00	0.00	203.00
	Other-SWECO Dozer Notes : SWECO 480 - State Purchased. Costs in Grant are for fuel and minor maintenance only.	40.000	10.500	HRS	420.00	0.00	420.00
	Other-Mini Excavator Notes : Mini Excavator (2003 Caterpillar 301.8) - State Purchased. Costs in Grant are for fuel and minor maintenance only.	30.000	6.520	HRS	196.00	0.00	196.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				1,476.00	0.00	1,476.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Indirect Costs						
Total Program Expenses					16,700.00	29,700.00	46,400.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Mendocino National Forest
Application: Thomes Creek Restoration Implementation (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					16,700.00	29,700.00	46,400.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					16,700.00	29,700.00	46,400.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Mendocino National Forest
Application: Thomes Creek Restoration Implementation (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	12,729.00	29,700.00	42,429.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	2,495.00	0.00	2,495.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	1,476.00	0.00	1,476.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Program Expenses		16,700.00	29,700.00	46,400.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		16,700.00	29,700.00	46,400.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		16,700.00	29,700.00	46,400.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

The following is stated in the attached Decision Memo titled "Thomes Backcountry Trails," dated January 28, 2010. "Pursuant to 36 CFR 220.6(b) I have determined that no extraordinary circumstances exist regarding the following resource conditions: a) Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species. ...b) Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds. The proposed action would not occur within any identified flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds. BMPs established to protect watershed resources can be found in Appendix B."

Further, Appendix B provides specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) to ensure impacts do not occur to wetlands or sensitive habitats and species. BMPs for protection of watersheds / wetlands can be found on page 6 - 7 of the attached Decision Memo. In summary, BMPs provide for operating during the dry season, conducting any culvert removal during low or no flow periods, placing mulch on constructed waterbars and other disturbed areas, restoring natural surface drainage and effectively blocking unauthorized trails to prevent future motorized use. BMPs for protection of threatened, endangered, or sensitive habitats and species can be found on page 7 of the Decision Memo. In summary, these BMPs include implementing a Limited Operating Period (LOP) in specific areas from February 1 - July 15 to prevent noise disturbance to Spotted Owls, a LOP to protect the California red-legged along Thomes Creek from October 15 or the first significant rain to March 31, and a requirement that no elderberry bushes greater than one inch in diameter are to be removed or disturbed.

There are no navigable waters in the project area.

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

Backcountry Areas are set aside for management of the undeveloped forest environment in such a way that a diversity of plant and animal life is maintained and an opportunity for the enjoyment of primitive and/or semi-primitive recreational activities is provided. Access to the backcountry area is limited to foot and horse trail. The following list identifies the Forest Plan management direction and associated standards and guidelines that are specific to this project (see Forest Plan pp. IV-79).

1. Protect habitat for all species of wildlife, fish, and plants found within this area; 2. Limited fish, wildlife and watershed improvements may be approved in a case by case basis, where needed to maintain or enhance fish and wildlife habitat and watershed conditions. Structural improvements will be designed and implemented consistent with other management objectives for the area (i.e., maintenance of un-roaded and undeveloped character, etc.); 3. Manage to provide opportunities for primitive and/or semi-primitive non motorized recreational activities in an undeveloped setting; 4. Meet adopted Visual Quality Objectives of retention and partial retention; 5. Permit no timber harvest, road construction, or other land disturbing management activities except in those situations which pose a serious threat to life, private property, or significant resource loss; 6. Continue established use by livestock at the current level, provided such use does not result in long term degradation of the area. Maintain existing improvements needed for proper management of livestock use, but do not authorize additional improvements.

Implementation of the management activities associated with this funding request is intended to support direction in the Mendocino National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), and will not cause cumulative impacts to resources.

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

This project will not have a significant effect on the environment due to substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. In contrast, taking no action would result in continued sediment delivery from unauthorized trail-related erosion. Correction of trail drainage, installation of trail closure devices and culvert removal under the proposed action will reduce chronic erosion and sediment delivery to the local stream systems. Simply closing most unauthorized trails will reduce the impacts from sediment delivery and trails can rehabilitate naturally over time within this project area.

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

This project is not located within the viewshed of a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway, therefore, scenic resources associated with state scenic highways will not be affected.

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

Activities to be conducted through this restoration project will not pose substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources. Rather, this project will prevent unauthorized access into the backcountry area, preventing the potential for damage to historic or cultural resources from motor vehicle use.

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

The proposed project will cause no significant impacts. There are no Forest Service designated OHV trails within the Thomes Creek Backcountry Area. Decommissioning, hydrologically stabilizing and permanently closing unauthorized vehicle access and routes will result in protection of resources both on and off-site.

This project more effectively prevents unauthorized off highway vehicle use and restores damage that has occurred from unauthorized use. Completion of this project will only affect users who have been illegally using this area for motorized recreation by preventing further access. No legal off highway vehicle recreation use will be affected by this project.

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[Decision Memo Thomes Backcountry](#)

Evaluation Criteria

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is: 5

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)
☒ 51% - 75% (5 points)
☐ 26% - 50% (3 points)
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 2.

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Failure to fund the Project will result in adverse impacts to: 14

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Domestic water supply (4 points)
☒ Archeological and historical resources identified in the California Register of Historical Resources or the Federal Register of Historic Places (3 points)
☒ Stream or other watercourse (3 points)
☒ Soils - Site actively eroding (2 points)
☒ Sensitive areas (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of sensitive habitats [6]
☐ Threatened and Endangered (T&E) listed species (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of T&E species
☐ Other special-status species- Number of special-status species (1 point each, up to a maximum of 3) Enter number of special-status species

Describe the type and severity of impacts that might occur relative to the checked item(s):

Until the area can be closed off and natural drainage restored, erosion will continue to add sediment into water courses. Archaeological sites have been identified as receiving damage from unauthorized OHV use in the project area. This project will protect these valuable cultural resources by preventing further access to these sensitive areas.

3. Reason for Project - Q 3.

3. Reason for the Project 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ Protect special-status species or cultural site (4 points)
☒ Restore natural resource system damaged by OHV activity (4 points)
☐ OHV activity in a closed area (3 points)
☐ Alternative measures attempted, but failed (2 points)
☐ Management decision (1 point)
☐ Scientific and cultural studies (1 point)
☐ Planning efforts associated with Restoration (1 point)

Reference Document

Decision Memo
USDA Forest Service
Thomes Backcountry Trails
Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District
Tehama County, California
Appendix B
Management Requirements

4. Measures to Ensure Success - Q 4.

4. Measures to ensure success –The Project makes use of the following elements to ensure successful implementation 12

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Site monitoring to prevent additional damage
- ☒ Construction of barriers and other traffic control devices
- ☒ Use of native plants and materials
- ☒ Incorporation of universally recognized 'Best Management Practices'
- ☒ Educational signage
- ☒ Identification of alternate OHV routes to ensure that OHV activities will not reoccur in restored area

Explain each item checked above:

Site monitoring will be done by Law Enforcement Officers and Forest Protection Officers to identify and prevent additional damage. Closure devices to prevent access of motorized traffic into the Thomes Creek Backcountry Area, while still encouraging non-motorized recreation use will be installed. Native plants and mulch materials will be used after scarification and soil blending to restore OHV impacted areas. General BMP guidelines will be applied throughout the project area. Signs will be posted at the backcountry boundary, at the junctions of major roadways and campgrounds in the area to notify the public of proper backcountry uses to ensure that OHV activities will not reoccur in restored area.

5. Publicly Reviewed Plan - Q 5.

5. Is there a publicly reviewed and adopted plan (e.g., wilderness designation, land management plans, route designation decisions) that supports the need for the Restoration Project? 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (5 points)

Identify plan

This project implements the following Mendocino National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan direction: It is located in Management Area 43 - Thomes Creek Backcountry Area. Backcountry Areas are set aside for management of the undeveloped forest environment in such a way that a diversity of plant and animal life is maintained and an opportunity for the enjoyment of primitive and/or semi-primitive recreational activities is provided. Access to the backcountry area is limited to foot and horse trail.

6. Primary Funding Source - Q 6.

6. Primary funding source for future operational costs associated with the Project will be: 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ Applicant's operational budget (5 points)
- ☐ Volunteer support and/or donations (3 points)
- ☐ Other Grant funding (2 points)
- ☐ OHV Trust Funds (No points)

If 'Operational budget' is checked, list reference document(s):

Mendocino National Forest, Budget Allocation

7. Public Input - Q 7.

7. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 1 point each, up to a maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
☒ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

This project was listed in the Chico Enterprise Record on December 10, 2009. No comments were received from the public. Forest staff also met in person and via conference call with a California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) representative. In 2009, Mr. Henson, Policy Director of the CWC, provided input into the plan to prevent unauthorized OHV use into this area, and has provided comments of support for this project .

8. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 8.

8. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 2

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 4 or more (4 points) ☒ 2 to 3 (2 points)
☐ 1 (1 point) ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

CDC Hand crews
Volunteer Bruce Heitmen and friends
California Wilderness Coalition

9. Scientific and Cultural Studies - Q 9.

9. Scientific and cultural studies will

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Determine appropriate Restoration techniques (2 points)
☐ Examine potential effects of OHV Recreation on natural or cultural resources (2 points)
☐ Examine methods to ensure success of Restoration efforts (1 point)
☐ Lead to direct management action (1 point)

Explain each item checked above

10. Underlying Problem - Q 10.

10. The underlying problem that resulted in the need for the Restoration Project has been effectively addressed and resolved 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (3 points)

Explain 'Yes' answer

The NEPA document and prior planning effort addressed the underlying problem associated with continued unauthorized motor vehicle access in the Thomes Creek Backcountry Area. Implementation of this project will resolve the issues of unauthorized motorized usage in the Thomes Creek Backcountry, and provide restoration of damaged areas.

11. Size of sensitive habitats - Q 11.

11. Size of sensitive habitats (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) within the Project Area which will be restored 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ Greater than 10 acres (5 points)
- ☐ 1 – 10 acres (3 points)
- ☐ Less than 1 acre (1 points)
- ☐ No sensitive habitat within Project Area (No points)